

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

UNCLAS PARIS 34724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, PDIP, DM

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO BENIN, JEAN MEADMORE

1. JEAN MEADMORE, A 54 YEAR-OLD CAREER DIPLOMAT, HAS BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE MICHEL VAN GREVENYNGHE AS THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO COTONOU.

2. MEADMORE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN THE FAR EAST. HOLDER OF A LICENSE IN LAW, AND A GRADUATE OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES (SPECIALIZING IN CHINESE AND MALAY), HE SPENT EIGHT YEARS IN INDOCHINA, CHINA AND KOREA (WHERE HE WAS INTERNEED FROM 1950-53) BEFORE ENTERING THE FOREIGN SERVICE. HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS TO WELLINGTON (1954-58), AND, AFTER A TOUR OF DUTY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN KOBE FROM 1961-65. RETURNING TO THE PARIS AREA, MEADMORE SPENT FOUR YEARS WITH THE PERSONNEL SECTION OF THE QUAI BEFORE BEING POSTED TO DAKAR IN 1969 AS FIRST COUNSELOR. IN 1973 HE SPENT ONE YEAR AS A STUDENT AT THE INSTITUTE DES HAUTES ETUDES DE DEFENSE NATIONALE. PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT, MEADMORE HAD ONCE AGAIN, SINCE 1974, BEEN SERVING IN THE PERSONNEL SECTION AT THE QUAI.

3. MEADMORE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER NICOLE ROBIN, AND IS THE FATHER OF TWO CHILDREN.

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